

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 23-24 and 55-57.

Please amend Claims 2-6, 20-22, 36, 42, 46, and 50. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i -iv).

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2. (Twice Amended) A modular hearing aid comprising:
a base unit adapted to contain any of a microphone, a receiver, electronics and controls; and
an earmold removably attached to the base unit, the earmold comprising a compliant material, a retention mechanism for connection to the base unit such that the earmold can be connected to the base unit or removed from the base unit and replaced after use, and the earmold comprising a battery non-removably integrated with the earmold.
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3. (Amended) The modular hearing aid of Claim 2 wherein the earmold further comprises a shell non-removably integrated with the earmold, the shell housing the battery.
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4. (Twice Amended) A modular hearing aid comprising:
a base unit adapted to contain any of a microphone, electronics and controls; and
an earmold removably attached to the base unit, the earmold comprising a compliant material, a retention mechanism for connection to the base unit such that the earmold can be connected to the base unit or removed from the base unit and replaced after use, and the earmold comprising both a battery and a receiver non-removably integrated with the earmold.
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5. (Amended) The modular hearing aid of Claim 4 wherein the earmold further comprises a shell non-removably integrated with the earmold, the shell housing the battery and the receiver.

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6. (Twice Amended) A modular hearing aid comprising:
a base unit adapted to contain any of a microphone, a battery, electronics and controls; and
an earmold removably attached to the base unit, the earmold comprising a compliant material, a retention mechanism for connection to the base unit such that the earmold can be connected to the base unit or removed from the base unit and replaced after use, and the earmold comprising a receiver and a shell, the shell non-removably integrated with the earmold and the receiver housed within the shell.

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20. (Twice Amended) A modular hearing aid comprising:
a base unit adapted to contain a microphone, a receiver, electronics and controls; and
an earmold comprising a compliant material non-removably integrated with a battery, the earmold having a flexible, mushroom shaped earmold tip adapted to create a seal with the bony portion of the ear canal to acoustically isolate the hearing aid base unit from acoustical vibrations created by the receiver, the earmold tip further comprising a retention mechanism for connection to the base unit such that the earmold can be connected to the base unit or removed from the base unit and replaced after use.

21. (Twice Amended) A modular hearing aid comprising:
a base unit adapted to contain a microphone and electronics; and
an earmold comprising a compliant material non-removably integrated with a battery and a receiver, the earmold having a flexible, mushroom shaped earmold tip adapted to create a seal with the bony portion of the ear canal to acoustically isolate the hearing aid base unit from acoustical vibrations created by the receiver, the earmold tip further comprising a retention mechanism for connection to the base unit such that the earmold can be connected to the base unit or removed from the base unit and replaced after use.

22. (Twice Amended) A method for replacing an earmold of a modular in-the-ear-type hearing aid comprising the steps:
- providing a modular hearing aid having a base unit and a compliant earmold having a shorter useful life than the useful life of the base unit;
 - releasing a securing mechanism between the earmold and the base unit, the securing mechanism capable of being released by a user without the use of a separate tool or instrument;
 - removing the earmold from the base unit;
 - discarding the earmold;
 - placing a second earmold onto the base unit; and
 - attaching the securing mechanism.

36. (Twice Amended) A hearing aid comprising:
- a hearing aid base unit having a microphone, a battery and electronics; and
 - a flexible earmold tip comprising a compliant material and having a vibration isolator portion containing a receiver, a mushroom shaped tip portion adapted to create a seal with an ear canal to acoustically isolate the hearing aid base unit from acoustical vibrations created by the receiver, and a sound bore, the vibration isolator portion enclosed by the base unit and having the receiver electrically attached to the base unit wherein the receiver includes a diaphragm adapted to vibrate in operation causing the receiver to mechanically vibrate and wherein the vibration isolation portion attenuates vibrations from the receiver, the mushroom shaped tip portion being attached to the vibration isolator portion, and the sound bore formed between the vibration isolator portion and the mushroom shaped tip portion and the sound bore providing a channel for the transfer of sound from the receiver to an ear canal of a user.

42. (Twice Amended) A method for attenuating feedback in a hearing aid comprising:
- providing a hearing aid base unit, a receiver, and a flexible hearing aid tip comprising a compliant material, the hearing aid tip having a flexible mushroom shaped tip portion and vibration isolator portion;

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surrounding the receiver with the vibration isolator portion to attenuate acoustic vibrations and mechanical vibrations created by the receiver during operation;
securing the vibration isolator portion and receiver within the hearing aid base unit; and
placing the hearing aid within an ear such that the mushroom shaped tip portion creates a seal with the bony portion of the ear canal to acoustically isolate the hearing aid base unit from acoustical vibrations created by the receiver.

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46. (Amended) A disposable hearing aid comprising:

a base unit having an inside portion, the base unit adapted to contain a non-replaceable component, including any of a microphone, a receiver, a battery, electronics and controls; and

a potting material which pots at least a portion of the inside portion of the base unit, wherein the material increases the mass of the hearing aid and wherein the material attenuates vibrations created by the receiver during operation, wherein the potting material forms an acoustical barrier inside the hearing aid between the receiver and the microphone.

50. (Amended) The disposable hearing aid of Claim 48 wherein the layers of fingers comprise an elastomer material.
